(c) the time by which the work on Koderma-Badakakhana railway line is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) the amout is likely to be incurred on this project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New lines from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi, Ara to Sasaram, Patna to Hajipur including Ganga bridge and construction of a railway bridge on the river Ganga at Munger with rail links on both sides are proposed to be constructed, in addition to the works taken up earlier.

(c) At present only work on the first phase I on the proposed Girdih-Barkakhana-Ranchi new line, between Girdih and Koderma has been sanctioned. The work on the remaining portion would be taken up after completion of the first phase work.

(d) Will be known when work on this phase of the project is sanctioned, in the coming years.

[English]

Increase in Postmen

1449. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the number of new colonies but number of postmen has not been increased proportionately;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government regarding delay of postal mail/money orders/telegrams etc.; and

(c) the action, the Government propose to take to increase the number of postmen to ensure timely delivery of mail?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There has been increase in the number of new colonies but posts of Postmen cannot be linked with number of new colonies or increase in the population. The posts of postmen are created/ sanctioned on the basis of certain norms which include number of articles delivered and distance traversed. In may, 1990, 90 posts of postmen were sanctioned for Speed Post Services. In 1990-91, 2359 posts of postmen and 151 post of Sorting Postmen were created. In 1992, six (6) posts of Postmen and one (1) post of Sorting Postmen were created for Noida Complex. A review of establishment is conducted from time to time in order to asses the justification for the essential posts and these are created/sanctioned with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Expenditure) as and when considered necessary.

(b) The number of complaints received during 1995-96 regarding delay of postal mail/money orders/ telegrams are as under :

		1995-96 (In Thousands)
(a)	Postal mails (Unregistered)	16.4
(b)	Money orders	278.3
(c)	Telegrams	0.22 (Per 100 Telegrams)

(c) The Department in 1991-92 had created a large number of operationally essential posts, which also include posts of Postmen necessary for smooth operation of the delivery system. Besides, this, to ensure smooth running of delivery system, the Department have delegated the powers to the Heads of Circles to re-deploy surplus posts of Group 'C' and 'D' (including the posts of Postmen). Under the delegated powers, posts of postmen found surplus in the establishment of one operative office can be re-deployed to another operative office where there is need for additional posts of postmen.

[Translation]

Survey for New Railway Lines

1450. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have taken decision to start survey work of new railway lines in Bina, Kurwai, Vyabara and Guna in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Bina, Kurwai, Biyavra and Guna are already linked by BG lines. However, a survey for linking Bina with Biyavara has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(c) The cost will become known only after survey report becomes available. No time frame can be fixed at this stage.

[English]

Investment in Electronic Media

1451. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Foreign investments